SUBJECTS.

were so primitive that they were always in a chronic state of want, as sufficient fish could not be obtained to maintain them. He then referred to their disabilities in the matter of curing fish for want of curing yards and on account of the delay in getting salt. The Member therefore prayed (1) that Government should establish fish curing yards at convenient centres, (2) that salt for fish curing might be issued at cost price, free of duty, from the yards, as in British India, and (3) that an expert be appointed to investigate the question of fisheries with a view to advise the Government on the methods of developing the industry.

Dewan's reply.—The Government recognize the importance of the subject. The matter will be enquired into.

V. Public Works.

47. The construction of roads and bridges and the maintenance of roads in the Cardamom Hills by the Revenue Department.

Mr. P. M. Ramaswami Raja (Member, Devicolam taluk) said that many acres of land had been brought under cultivation in the taluk and that extensive tracts for tea, coffee and other produce had been opened. The inhabitants of the place were labouring under difficulties in the matter of sending out the produce of these lands and of bringing in necessary articles for their use, for want of roads. The Member prayed that the Government might be pleased to order (*a*) the construction of three main roads, Kumili to Devicolam, Devicolam to Chathanpara, and Kambam to Oodambanchola, (*b*) the construction of the necessary branch roads 6 ft. in breadth leading to the residences of those inhabitants who had brought under cultivation not less than 100 acres, and (*c*) that the Revenue authorities should look after the maintenance of these roads thrice in a year.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

48. Modifications necessary in the toll system newly introduced at Kuzhithurai in the case of the inhabitants living near the toll gate.

Mr. C. Raman Tampi (Member, Vilavancode taluk) represented that the toll levied at Kuzhithurai was said to be for the maintenance of the road, and that he did not understand why the toll should be levied at that particular locality, if it was intended for the maintenance of the road, so as to affect the people of that locality more than others. The road ought to be properly cared for since a cess is collected for its maintenance, but on the contrary it was seen that neither lights were kept, nor proper metalling was done. He said that the travelling public from Aramboly to Marthandam and from Trivandrum to Kuzhithurai had to pay nothing on account of this toll, though the traffic was greater in those parts. It was not proper that loaded carriages and bicycles should be taxed alike. In his opinion, the charge must depend on the extent of damage done to the road.

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